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Panama is the gateway from the whole world to the west coast of America, from San Francisco to Valparaiso. Passengers and freight from the Orient are transshipped at San Francisco for points in South America and again changed at Panama. Passengers and freight from all parts of Europe are brought to Colon by the Royal Mail from England, the French Line from Havre, or the Spanish Line from the Mediterranean, pass across the Isthmus to Panama, and from here take steamers to Central America and Mexican ports or to San Francisco. All going to any port on the west coast of South America also pass through Panama.

Many through passengers from New York to San Francisco or vice versa likewise pass through this port. This large through passenger traffic renders Panama one of the most important ports in the world from a quarantine standpoint, on account of its tropical location and of passengers being frequently forced to wait for steamer connections.

With a good and abundant water supply and proper sanitation of the city and an efficient quarantine the health of Panama could be made to compare favorably with the health of coast cities in the Southern States and the port would no longer be an endemic focus for the distribution of quarantinable diseases.

*Summary of work in Chinatown, San Francisco, for the week ended February 13, 1904.*

The following is received from Passed Assistant Surgeon Blue, under date of February 15:

Buildings reinspected .....	234
Rooms .....	1,776
Persons inspected .....	2,482
Sick .....	51
Sick prescribed for at Oriental Dispensary .....	10
Dead examined .....	11
Necropsies .....	8
Provisional diagnosis plague .....	2
Rats examined bacteriologically .....	52
Number showing pest infection .....	1
Places limed and disinfected .....	795
Times streets swept .....	3
Sewers flushed .....	16
Notices served to abate plumbing nuisances .....	33
Plumbing nuisances abated .....	7
Undergoing abatement .....	19
Total number of plumbing inspections .....	189

*Plague case number 114 bacteriologically confirmed.*

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *February 17, 1904.*

WYMAN, *Washington:*

Case 114, Katie Cuka, reported February 7, is bacteriologically confirmed. Girl convalescent.

BLUE.

*Resolutions relative to cooperative work in the sanitation of Chinatown.*

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *February 8, 1904.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the resolutions adopted at a conference of the Federal, State, and city health authorities with members of the finance committee of the board of supervisors and representatives of the mercantile organizations, held in the offices

of the merchants' joint committee, February 6, 1904. This meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the situation in Chinatown, and also to reach an understanding as to the sanitary measures to be adopted in future. The agreement under which the work had been prosecuted for the past year having expired, and a new city board of health having been recently appointed, it was deemed advisable to renew the plan of cooperation at this time. The inclosed resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Respectfully,

RUPERT BLUE,  
*Passed Assistant Surgeon.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

#### RESOLUTIONS.

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of this meeting that the sanitary measures adopted by the city, State, and Federal health authorities in February, 1903, for the eradication of contagious diseases in Chinatown be continued for so long a time as may be considered necessary; that the city board of health be requested to recommend to the board of supervisors additional measures for the wholesale destruction of rats.

*Resolved*, That all cellars, basements, and underground places in the district between California and Pacific, Stockton and Kearny, be condemned as places of abode and the same be destroyed; that in case of reconstruction the owners be required to remove surface soil and to concrete the area thus exposed solidly from wall to wall.

*Resolved*, That the work be done under the direction and supervision of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, and that a meeting of the representatives of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, the city board of health, and the State board of health be held once every two weeks for consultation.

MARTIN REGENSBURGER,  
*President State Board of Health.*

RUPERT BLUE,  
*Passed Assistant Surgeon U. S. P. H. and M. H. S.*

JAMES W. WARD, M. D.,  
*President San Francisco Board of Health.*

N. K. FOSTER,  
*Secretary State Board of Health.*

A. A. D'ANCONA,  
*Member Hospital and Finance Committees, Board of Supervisors.*

WM. C. HASSLER, M. D.,  
*Chief Inspecting Physician.*

SAN FRANCISCO, February 6, 1904.

*Sickness on Russian bark Thomas Perry, from East London, South Africa, at Santa Rosa quarantine, Fla.*

The following is received from Acting Assistant Surgeon White, under date of February 11: The Russian bark *Thomas Perry* arrived at this port on February 1 from East London, South Africa, via Barbados. The vessel was in ballast, earth and stone, taken in at East London, and was remanded to the quarantine station for a preliminary fumigation and refumigation after discharge of ballast, in accordance with the usual custom observed here with ships from plague-infected ports. This precautionary measure was deemed especially necessary in the case of the *Thomas Perry*, as an examination of the ship's log revealed an unusual number of cases of sickness and death among the crew at port of departure and during the voyage.

From October 2 to December 1, 1903, while at East London discharging cargo and taking in ballast, 17 cases of sickness developed on board, none serious. The captain states that the men suffered mostly from diarrhea and were laid up for a few days only at a time.